



PUBLIC NOTICE

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OET SEEKS COMMENT ON PROPOSAL BY UNITED TELECOM COUNCIL TO SERVE AS DATABASE MANAGER FOR ACCESS BROADBAND OVER POWER LINE SYSTEMS

(ET Docket No. 04-37)

Comment Date: June 27, 2005

Reply Comment Date: July 5, 2005

By this Public Notice, the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) seeks comment on a letter submitted by the United Telecom Council (UTC) in which it proposes to serve as the Access Broadband over Power Line (Access BPL) database manager, pursuant to Section 15.615(a)-(e) of the Commission's rules.

Background information. On October 14, 2004, the Commission adopted a *Report and Order* in the above proceeding, amending Part 15 of the rules to establish specific interference mitigation requirements for Access BPL systems.¹ Access BPL systems use existing electrical power lines as a transmission medium to convey information by coupling radio frequency (RF) energy onto the medium voltage delivery power lines. Because Access BPL equipment injects RF into unshielded, unpaired medium voltage lines, the technology raises concerns of potential interference with incumbent users of the spectrum, and heightens the need for agile and timely interference mitigation techniques. The Commission adopted, *inter alia*, a framework that requires the BPL industry to establish within 180 days from publication of the *Report and Order* in the *Federal Register* a centralized publicly accessible Access BPL notification database. The Commission directed that the database manager would be chosen by the BPL industry.

On May 17, 2005, the UTC submitted a letter notifying the Commission that it has designed and implemented a database that will enable Access BPL operators to comply with the notification requirements of Section 15.615(a)-(e) of the Commission's rules. UTC stated that it has beta-tested the database with BPL operators that are members of UTC. UTC attached to its letter a petition signed by thirty-five Access BPL companies indicating their support for UTC to serve as the Access BPL database manager.²

¹ See *Amendment of Part 15 regarding new requirements and measurement guidelines for Access Broadband over Power Line Systems* and *In the Matter of Carrier Current Systems, including Broadband over Power Line Systems, Report and Order* in ET Docket Nos. 04-37 and 03-104, 19 FCC Rcd 21265 (2004), 70 FR 1360, January 7, 2005.

² See Letter from Bill Moroney, UTC, to Ed Thomas, Chief of the Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology, filed May 17, 2005.

Database Manager Duties and Responsibilities. Pursuant to the *Report and Order*, the BPL industry must establish, within 180 days from publication of the item in the *Federal Register*, a centralized publicly accessible notification database.³ The Database Manager is required to:

- 1) Maintain complete, accurate and timely records of FCC-mandated information. The mandated information that Access BPL operators must provide the BPL industry-sponsored database manager include:
 - a. the name of the Access BPL provider;
 - b. the frequencies of the Access BPL operation;
 - c. the postal zip codes served by the specific Access BPL operation;
 - d. the manufacturer and type of Access BPL equipment being deployed (i.e., FCC ID);
 - e. point of contact information (both telephone and e-mail address) for interference inquiries and resolution; and
 - f. the proposed/or actual date of Access BPL operation
- 2) Enter the above information received from Access BPL operators into the database within 3 business days of receipt.
- 3) Provide the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA), the Commission and any member of the public access to the database free of charge and at all times.

Comments. Pursuant to Sections 1.415 and 1.419 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.415, 1.419, interested parties may file comments on or before **June 27, 2005**, and reply comments on or before **July 5, 2005**. Comments may be filed using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) or by filing paper copies. See *Electronic Filing of Documents in Rulemaking Proceedings*, 63 Fed. Reg. 24121 (1998).

For *ex parte* purposes, this proceeding will be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding, in accordance with Section 1.1200(a) of the Commission's rules, and is subject to the requirements under Section 1.1206(b) of the rules. All comments will be available for public inspection.

Comments filed through the ECFS can be sent as an electronic file via the Internet to <http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html>. Generally, only one copy of an electronic submission must be filed. In completing the transmittal screen, commenters should include their full name, U.S. Postal Service mailing address, and the applicable docket [**ET Docket No. 04-37**]. Parties may also submit an electronic comment by Internet e-mail. To get filing instructions for e-mail comments, commenters should send an e-mail to ecfs@fcc.gov, and should include the following words in the body of the message, "get form <your e-mail address.>" A sample form and directions will be sent in reply. Parties who choose to file by paper must file an original and four copies of each filing.

Filings can be sent by hand or messenger delivery, by commercial overnight courier, or by first-class or overnight U.S. Postal Service mail (although we continue to experience delays in receiving U.S. Postal Service mail). The Commission's contractor, Natek, Inc., will receive hand-delivered or messenger-delivered paper filings for the Commission's Secretary at 236 Massachusetts

³ See *Report and Order*, ¶84.

Avenue, N.E., Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20002. The filing hours at this location are 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All hand deliveries must be held together with rubber bands or fasteners. Any envelopes must be disposed of before entering the building. Commercial overnight mail (other than U.S. Postal Service Express Mail and Priority Mail) must be sent to 9300 East Hampton Drive, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. U.S. Postal Service first-class mail, Express Mail, and Priority Mail should be addressed to 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554.

The full text of the UTC letter is available for inspection and copying during normal business hours in Room CY-A257, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C., and may also be purchased from the Commission's duplication contractor, Best Copy and Printing, Inc., (800) 378-3160.

By the Chief, Office of Engineering and Technology.

Office of Engineering and Technology contact: Anh Wride at (202) 418-0577.

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